



## Only an integrated approach across academia, enterprise, governments, and global agencies can tackle the public health impact of climate change

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### Abstract:

**BACKGROUND:** Despite considerable global attention to the issues of climate change, relatively little priority has been given to the likely effects on human health of current and future changes in the global climate. We identify three major societal determinants that influence the impact of climate change on human health, namely the application of scholarship and knowledge; economic and commercial considerations; and actions of governments and global agencies. **DISCUSSION:** The three major areas are each discussed in terms of the ways in which they facilitate and frustrate attempts to protect human health from the effects of climate change. Academia still pays very little attention to the effects of climate on health in poorer countries. Enterprise is starting to recognise that healthy commerce depends on healthy people, and so climate change presents long-term threats if it compromises health. Governments and international agencies are very active, but often face immovable vested interests in other sectors. Overall, there tends to be too little interaction between the three areas, and this means that potential synergies and co-benefits are not always realised. **CONCLUSION:** More attention from academia, enterprise, and international agencies needs to be given to the potential threats the climate change presents to human health. However, there needs to also be much closer collaboration between all three areas in order to capitalise on possible synergies that can be achieved between them.

**Source:** <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3617642>

### Resource Description

#### Communication: ☒

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

#### Communication Audience: ☒

audience to whom the resource is directed

Public, Researcher

#### Exposure : ☒

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

# Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Unspecified Exposure

## **Geographic Feature:**

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

## **Geographic Location:**

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

## **Health Co-Benefit/Co-Harm (Adaption/Mitigation):**

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to reduce or cope with greenhouse gases

A focus of content

## **Health Impact:**

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

General Health Impact

## **Mitigation/Adaptation:**

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Mitigation

## **Resource Type:**

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

## **Timescale:**

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified